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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
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10 DANIEL RENARD,

11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT
DISTRICT, ET AL.,

14 Defendants.
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CASE NO. 06-CV-2665 H
(BLM)

**ORDER DENYING
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO
STRIKE AND FOR A MORE
DEFINITE STATEMENT**

16 On May 15, 2007, Plaintiff filed his second amended complaint. (Doc. No. 79.)
17 On June 8, 2007, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss. (Doc. No. 114.) On July 16,
18 2007, Plaintiff filed a motion to strike certain defenses from Defendants' motion to
19 dismiss and asking the Court to order a more definite statement as to certain arguments
20 in the motion to dismiss. (Doc. No. 117.) Defendants filed a response in opposition
21 on July 26, 2007, arguing that Plaintiff's motion is inapplicable to their motion to
22 dismiss. (Doc. No. 118.) Plaintiff filed a reply in support of his motion on August 1,
23 2007. (Doc. No. 119.) The Court exercises its discretion under Civil Local Rule
24 7.1(d)(1) and finds this matter appropriate for disposition without oral argument.

25 As an initial matter, Rule 7(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure sets forth
26 the limited documents considered "pleadings" within the federal courts.¹ In contrast,

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28 ¹ Rule 7(a) provides: "There shall be a complaint and an answer; a reply to a counterclaim
denominated as such; an answer to a cross-claim, if the answer contains a cross-claim; a third-party
complaint, if a person who was not an original party is summoned under the provisions of Rule 14;

1 Rule 7(b) describes “motions” and “other papers” contemplated by the Federal Rules.

2 A party may file a motion to strike under Rule 12(f), which provides that the
3 court may strike “any insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent,
4 or scandalous matter” from any pleading. “[T]he function of a 12(f) motion to strike
5 is to avoid the expenditure of time and money that must arise from litigating spurious
6 issues by dispensing with those issues prior to trial.” Fantasy, Inc. v. Fogerty, 984 F.2d
7 1524, 1527 (9th Cir. 1993) (quoting Sidney-Vinstein v. A.H. Robins Co., 697 F.2d 880,
8 885 (9th Cir. 1983), rev’d on other grounds, 510 U.S. 517 (1994)). Rule 12(f) motions
9 to strike are generally disfavored. See e.g., Stanbury Law Firm v. I.R.S., 221 F.3d
10 1059, 1063 (8th Cir. 2000). Importantly, only pleadings are subject to a motion to
11 strike. Improper motions, declarations, or other material not contained in pleadings
12 cannot be stricken under Rule 12(f). See, e.g., A.H. Robins Co., 697 F.2d at 885.
13 Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion to strike arguments from Defendants’ motion to dismiss
14 is improper.

15 Similarly, Rule 12(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to
16 order a more definite statement in response to pleading deficiencies: “If a pleading to
17 which a responsive pleading is permitted is so vague or ambiguous that a party cannot
18 reasonably be required to frame a responsive pleading, the party may move for a more
19 definite statement before interposing a responsive pleading.” Rule 12(e) only
20 contemplates a more definite statement with regard to pleadings, however, and it does
21 not provide any mechanism through which a party may obtain a more definite statement
22 as to a motion to dismiss. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion for a more definite statement
23 as to Defendants’ motion to dismiss is also improper.

24 In short, Plaintiff’s motion fails because neither a motion to strike nor a motion
25 for more definite statement applies in the context of a motion to dismiss. Accordingly,
26 the Court **DENIES** Plaintiff’s motion to strike or for a more definite statement.

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28 and a third-party answer, if a third-party complaint is served. No other pleading shall be allowed,
except that the court may order a reply to an answer or a third-party answer.”

